

**RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY**

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

AND OF THE

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

**1949**



RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1949

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to submit my annual report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1949. It is followed by that of the Sanitary Inspector.*

*This report is submitted in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their Circular 2/50, dated 25th January, 1950.*

*I have the honour to remain,*

*Your obedient servant,*

D. L. JOHNSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Rudge Farm House,  
Froxfield,  
Marlborough.*

## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	D. L. JOHNSON, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	S. L. THOMAS, M.S.I.A.

One Sanitary Inspector for a district of this size is not sufficient, and the burden of meat inspection, mostly done after the normal working hours has greatly increased—as will be seen from the Inspector's report, 57% more carcasses were inspected than in 1948. Although total inspections were higher last year, the inspection of food premises and ice cream dealers (who are becoming more numerous) were fewer.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	75,828
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	25
Population—Census 1931	...	...	...	...	14,292
Population mid-1949, as estimated by the Registrar General	...	...	Civilian	14,310	
			Total	17,220	
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	3,829	
Number of new houses erected in 1949	...	...	...	68	
By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	9	
By Local Authority	...	...	...	59	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£97,285	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£410	

## VITAL STATISTICS

				M.	F.	Total
Live Births	...	...	...	145	133	278
Legitimate	...	...	...	135	126	261
Illegitimate	...	...	...	10	7	17
Still Births	...	...	...	1	3	4
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate	...	...	...			19.4
Live Birth Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...			16.7
Number of Deaths from all causes	...	...	...	86	72	158
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...			11.0
Crude Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...			11.7
Deaths of Infants under one year :—						
Total	...	...	...	3	4	7
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...			25.2
Infantile Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...			32.0

## NOTE

The number of births, still-births, and deaths are those registered during 1949 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

The number of deaths from all causes does not include deaths of non-civilians. The death-rate has, therefore, been calculated as the number of deaths per 1,000 of the civilian population.

In order to preserve continuity with the years since 1940, the live birth rate has been calculated as the number of live births per 1,000 of the civilian population.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious disease for the year was 362, a 50% increase over that for 1948. 319 of these cases were Measles, which began early in the year in Collingbourne Kingston, and rapidly swept through Collingbourne Ducis and Ludgershall. The great majority of cases occurred in these three villages, February and March being the worst months with 95 and 81 notifications respectively. The infection continued to spread to Tidworth, Chute, and eventually to Pewsey and elsewhere, dying out in June. Collingbourne Kingston school was closed from 31st January to 11th February as a result of the outbreak.

There was one notification of diphtheria, and the patient was admitted to Isolation Hospital, but the case was subsequently re-diagnosed. One contact of a case of diphtheria in another district was kept under observation together with other members of her household.

There was one case of poliomyelitis, a child from Devizes being taken ill whilst staying in the district. She was admitted to hospital. One case of polio encephalitis occurred, and the patient was transferred to hospital, but died the next day.

A case of suspected smallpox occurred among the nursing staff at Pewsey Colony. The patient was transferred to Ham Green Isolation Hospital, and a considerable number of the inmates of the Colony were vaccinated before a re-diagnosis of chickenpox was made.

A table of the monthly notifications of infectious disease is given below.



## MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

			JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	1	8
Whooping Cough ...	...	7	2	8	1	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	23
Diphtheria ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ...	...	3	95	81	47	64	26	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	319
Pneumonia ...	...	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Poliomyelitis ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Smallpox ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Dysentery ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Food Poisoning ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Erysipelas ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Malaria ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
			12	99	91	50	64	26	1	12	1	3	2	1	362

### TUBERCULOSIS

16 new cases were added to the Register, 13 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. There were 4 deaths from pulmonary and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. 5 other cases were removed from the Register, 4 on recovery and one on leaving the district. The Tuberculosis Registers are at present being checked, and it is hoped to write off a number of cases notified during the war years, especially amongst Service personnel, where patients have returned to their home districts.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisations against diphtheria were continued under the County scheme, and most of the schools were visited twice during the year. The number of children protected at the end of the year was 3178, a percentage of 90.8.

### VACCINATION

Although Vaccination is the responsibility of the County Council as the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act 1946, it is also, in my view, a matter of great importance to the local Sanitary Authority, which would be more directly concerned should smallpox occur within its area. No figures equivalent to those for Diphtheria Immunisation are available, but it is estimated that only 12.1% of infants born in the County during the year were vaccinated. The decline in the number of children vaccinated is serious, and is causing concern to Health Authorities throughout the Country.

In the event of smallpox occurring in this District, arrangements have been made with the Secretary of the Swindon Group Hospital Management Committee for the disinfection of bedding, clothing etc. at the Isolation Hospital, Swindon. Any of the Council's staff, likely to be in contact with a case in the course of their duty have been advised to be re-vaccinated every two years. A smallpox diagnostic test set has been obtained from the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948**

No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

## **HOUSING**

This, in my opinion, still remains the most urgent item on the Council's agenda from the Public Health point of view, and with the present rate of restricted progress, threatens to remain so for some years to come. Good progress was made in housing some of the worse-off families, whom I had reported to the Council as being in most urgent need for health reasons, but the need of families living with in-laws or in lodgings has yet to be met, as also has that of the increasing percentage of old people. The Council, with these needs in mind, has gone into the practicability of dividing suitable postwar Council houses into flats. It is unfortunate that the Ministry of Health does not feel able to increase the housing quota for rural authorities such as this, so that they can cater for various sizes of family without detriment to the continuing need of large ones.

At the beginning of the year the County Tuberculosis Officer introduced a new kind of certificate which is of great help in assessing the relative merits of claims for re-housing on the grounds of tuberculosis. There are three priorities, the highest being given only in cases where alternative accommodation is urgently needed to prevent the spread of infection. In my view absolute priority should be given to this category.

## **WATER SAMPLING**

At the beginning of the year it was decided to submit monthly samples from public supplies for bacteriological examination, and this policy has been carried out.

## **FOOD HANDLING**

Although no cases of food poisoning or other gastro-enteric disease were notified during the year, this is no reason for complacency, and it is hoped that a more regular inspection of all food premises will be possible during the coming year; although without additional staff this must be difficult.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Food issued Model Bye-Laws dealing with the "Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air." Although moderate in their requirements these should prove of great help in raising the general standard of food hygiene, and will be placed before the Council for their consideration in 1950.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The Council decided to license individual moveable dwellings in addition to the sites. In this way it is hoped that a higher standard of hygiene will be maintained by the occupants, who will thus have a personal responsibility in the matter. In the case of failure to comply with minimum requirements, the Council will be advised to refuse renewal of a licence.

## **SLAUGHTER HOUSES**

Little progress was made in the Council's repeated attempts to obtain permission from higher authority to build a modern slaughterhouse in place of the present totally inadequate and ill-sited structure. The conditions at this place have worsened considerably since my previous report, owing to the increase in slaughtering during the year, which was partly due to the transfer of work from Marlborough when the slaughterhouses there were closed in August. The lack of space and facilities for carrying out thorough meat inspection are aggravated by the amount of frozen meat being handled there.

## **VISIT OF GERMAN MEDICAL OFFICERS**

In October two Medical Officers of Health from the British Zone of Germany, who had come to this country as guests of the Foreign Office to study Public Health Administration in England, spent a week in the East Wilts Combined Sanitary Districts. One day was spent in this district and in the morning the Surveyor very kindly showed them examples of the different types of traditional and pre-fabricated houses. In the afternoon the Sanitary Inspector showed them, amongst other things, a fish frying and ice cream manufacturing premises. They very much appreciated the trouble taken by these officers.



**CAUSES OF DEATH**  
**AS RETURNED BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL**

				M.	F.	Total
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	—	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	2	2	4
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	1	—	1
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	—	—	—
9	Influenza	...	...	1	—	1
10	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis	...	...	1	—	1
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	—	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	...	...	—	1	1
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	2	3	5
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	—	1	1
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	9	7	16
17	Diabetes	...	...	—	1	1
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	11	10	21
19	Heart Diseases	...	...	27	27	54
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	7	2	9
21	Bronchitis	...	...	2	3	5
22	Pneumonia	...	...	2	2	4
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2	—	2
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
25	Diarrhœa—under 2 years	...	...	—	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	1	—	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	2	3
28	Nephritis	...	...	3	3	6
29	Puerperal and Post Abortional Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	—	—	—
31	Premature Births	...	...	1	2	3
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries and Infantile Diseases	...	...	2	2	4
33	Suicide	...	...	—	—	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	2	—	2
35	Other Violent Causes	...	...	1	1	2
36	All Other Causes	...	...	8	3	11
All Causes				86	72	158



# RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1949

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to submit my first independent Annual Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department of the Council during the year 1949.*

*I should like to express my appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health, the Clerk and other members of the Staff for their help and co-operation and to members of the Council who gave their time willingly when I wanted to discuss some point arising in the area which they represented.*

*I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

S. L. THOMAS.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

The following table shows the number and nature of the inspections made during the year :—

Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	146
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	568
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	36
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	67
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	20
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	96
Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	47
Visits under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	170
Visits under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	78
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	19
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	21
Infectious Disease and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	39
Slaughterhouse and Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	398
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	127
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	164
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	26
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	117
						Total
						2216

## HOUSING

The number of new houses erected during the year was :

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	59
(2) By Private Enterprise	...	...	9

Of the above total of 59, twenty one were occupied by the tenants of the Squatters Camps at Hedge End and Kangaroo Corner at Ludgershall. Recma houses were in course of erection at the end of the year for the remainder of the squatters whose Nissen hut homes had reached the end of their useful life.

### ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which informal notices were served requesting defects to be remedied	...	32
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served	... ..	1

In many cases repair work was carried out after interview with the owners and no notices were served.

### ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 1936

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	7
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted by the Local Authority	...	0

## RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

The Rural Housing Survey is at a standstill and cannot be done without additional help, nearly half of the houses were done during the years 1945/6 but subsequently only those not already surveyed and on which Housing action was taken, were inspected. The completion of this survey is desirable if only to give the true picture of the housing situation of the district. The information already gained has proved very valuable on many occasions. The following table shows the number of houses completed and their classifications:—



## Progress Report up to 31st December, 1949

Total No. of houses in district	Total No. to be Sur- veyed	Total No. of houses surveyed up to 31/12/49	1	2	3	4	5	Total Classified	Remarks
2901 under £20 R.V. 357 over £20 R.V. 550 W.D.	2901	1280	326	268	47	232	228	1280	There are 179 houses in between catagories 4 - 5

### NOTES

- Class 1. Satisfactory in all respects.
- „ 2. Minor defects.
- „ 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration, or improvement.
- „ 4. Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, or similar Act.
- „ 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT AND INFESTATION ORDER

During the year the method approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was again used for the destruction of rats and mice. It consists of unpoisoned bait being laid for three or four days at certain points, poison bait being then laid according to takes of prebait on the fourth or fifth day, what is left of the poison bait after being laid overnight being picked up on the following morning. It will be noted that all premises are visited at least five times in the course of one treatment. As this Authority took advantage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries financial scheme a search had to be made of every private dwelling in the area and although not quite completed due to the area being too big for one part-time man, a considerable number of rats were killed and a number of premises were freed from infestation. The grant included the treatment of all land and public works owned by the Council; where business premises were treated a fee was charged for the work.

In all cases satisfaction was expressed that the work carried out was efficient and successful.

## TREATMENT FOR VERMIN

Several cottages were treated for fleas during the year with a proprietary brand of a spray with a residual D.D.T. content. Return visits were found to be unnecessary.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Thirteen licences to use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings were issued under section 267 of the Public Health Act, 1936 during the year. Some of the sites have been in use for over 20 years while others are completely new. The Dwellings on them vary from vehicles completely surrounded by short life material additions to up-to-date caravan trailers. The general standard of the sites is poor, with a few exceptions, and the Council intend, when the sites are next licensed, to license the occupiers of each individual Moveable Dwelling also.

This type of dwelling was visited regularly during the year.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The Chief sources of supply of water, both Public and Private, to the District are wells and boreholes. The Pewsey and Ludgershall supplies were sampled regularly throughout the year, the Pewsey water being consistently good, while the few poor samples at Ludgershall are being investigated.

The water is very hard coming mainly from Chalk or Greensand and there is no risk of plumbo-solvent action.

The following is the information on how the different parishes obtain their water:—

PARISH	TYPE OF WATER SUPPLY
Pewsey	Water pumped from well into reservoir at West End, from which it is piped to all parts of Pewsey.
Ludgershall	Water pumped from well into storage tanks at Faberstown in the Andover Rural District Council's area. It is then piped to all parts of Ludgershall. During the latter part of the year a booster was installed at Andover Road to increase the pressure at the Astor Estate.
North Tidworth	Piped supply from the War Department.
Everleigh	Piped supply from the War Department.
Netheravon	Piped supply from the War Department.
Charlton	Private piped supply.
Rushall	Private piped supply.
Wootton Rivers	Private source of supply but the water bought in bulk is piped through the Council mains. This work was completed during the year.

The remainder of the water supplies in the other parishes are small private supplies to estates and farms, and wells and boreholes for individual premises, or a small number of premises sharing a well or borehole. In several parishes during the drought period, the majority of the wells dry up completely and the remainder become very low. In the case of Collingbourne Kingston and Collingbourne Dues, the Council decided to sink a borehole at Collingbourne Kingston to supply these two parishes, the work to be started in the first part of 1950. During the year also the scheme to supply Chute and Chute Forest with a piped supply of water was commenced.

Samples were taken regularly during the year and the following tables show the number taken and their results :—

### Number of Water Samples Submitted for Analysis :

	Public Supplies	Private Supplies	Total
Chemical	2	0	2
Baeteriological	27	14	41
			43

One baeteriological sample was also taken of the water running through the watercress beds at Milkhouse Water, the result of the analysis showing a water of a moderate degree of pollution.

### Result of Water Samples Submitted for Analysis :

#### PUBLIC SUPPLIES

	No evidence of Pollution	Small degree of Pollution	Moderate degree of Pollution	Considerable degree of Pollution	Gross degree of Pollution	Total
Chemical	1	1	0	0	0	2
Baeteriological	10	10	2	4	1	27

#### PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Chemical	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baeteriological	2	2	2	3	5	14
						43

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

As the District is essentially a rural area with villages widespread and the cottages in these villages in many cases far apart, the actual number of parishes drained by Public Sewers is very low. In a number of parishes, however, the Council have provided sewerage units for their own houses or have agreed with the War Department to connect into their sewers. The following table shows the present drainage arrangements in the different parishes:—

PARISH	DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING DRAINAGE
Pewsey	Public Sewer available which drains to a modern sewage disposal plant.
Netheravon	The Council houses are drained by arrangement into the War Department sewer, the remainder of the houses excepting the new W.D. houses, have no proper drainage facilities. The houses in the main street drain their waste water into an obsolete open gutter running down the side of the road. The night soil of these houses is buried in the gardens or nearby allotments.
North Tidworth	The Council houses are drained by arrangement, into the War Department sewer. There is no public sewer. A night soil collection is, however, in operation.
Everleigh	The Council houses are drained by arrangement into the War Department Modern Sewage Disposal Works. There is no public sewer.
Burbage } Milton } Upavon }	Drainage is provided for the new Council houses and runs to the Council's own sewage disposal units.
Ludgershall	Drainage is provided for 48 of the Council houses. A night soil collection is in operation. During the year work was started on the new sewer and sewerage works.

The remainder of the parishes in the district have no piped drainage and rely on small sewage units, cesspools, pail closets, the night soil from which is mainly buried in the garden and nearby allotments. Pail closets make up the greater part of the Sanitary Accommodation where no sewer is available, especially of the cottages and smaller houses.

The open sewer ditches at Netheravon, Woodborough and Upavon have again this year been attended to regularly and except for the Netheravon ditch, which is liable to flooding after heavy rain, they have been kept reasonably clean, disinfectant being supplied to the men in charge of them.



At Ludgershall no serious trouble was experienced at the drains for Hedge End and Kangaroo Corner, or the urinal which, although having some minor repairs done to it during the year, is approaching the end of its useful life. The squatters' camp drainage and the urinal received daily attention.

At Woodborough near the Station Hotel where the ditch was higher than the road and so caused flooding, work was undertaken part by the County Council and part by this Council to deepen the ditch. No further trouble has been experienced as this ditch now receives regular attention.

At Upavon part of the open ditch near the triangle was piped in, as also was the open ditch at Jarvis Street, an improvement in each case, but the small fall and the varying height of the river makes it difficult to get the waste water away at times.

During the year, thirty-one Notices were served under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936 to replace Earth Closets by Water Closets and to connect to the Council's sewer. All Notices were served upon owners of property in Pewsey. Of the Notices served eighteen were abated and four were in progress at the end of the year. Difficulty was encountered by the Building Contractors in obtaining permits for the use of softwood for W.C. doors and windows. This matter was taken up by this Council with the Ministry of Works.

All new drainage to private houses is water-tested by the Sanitary Department.

## MILK SUPPLIES

During the year two new Producers were registered for the whole-sale production of milk: these were, in fact, two new owners of already existing registered premises. Two dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" were also issued again this year.

The steady rate of conversion from old cowshed into modern milking parlour was maintained and visits were paid mainly in an advisory capacity, a number in company with the County Advisory Officers with whom I have worked in complete harmony. It has been noticeable that as the years go on, the farmer, and especially the younger farmer, welcomes the visit of a Sanitary Inspector, as he regards him more of an adviser than an official who serves notices upon him. With this state of co-operation existing between farmers and the public health official all necessary work in dairies and cowsheds was done by verbal action.



Number of Wholesale Producers on register for 1949 ...	177
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk registered for 1949 ...	25
Number of licences for "Tuberculin Tested" Producers renewed for 1949 ...	33
Number of new "Tuberculin Tested" licences gained during 1949	12
Number of licences for Accredited Producers renewed for 1949	35
Number of new Accredited licences gained during 1949 ...	1

During the year there was a big change in the law regarding milk, when the new milk Regulations came into force on the 1st October whereby all producers of milk were licensed and supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and all dealers in milk were licensed and supervised by the Local Authority. This entailed a considerable amount of work by this Department in collecting the information for those parts of the Regulations for which the Local Authority was responsible.

## LEGAL ACTION

During the year legal action was taken at the Pewsey Public Court against joint owners of one premises at Wootton Rivers only after all other methods had failed, for the non-compliance with a Statutory Notice. The Court made an Order for the work to be done within three months, the defendant to pay £1 1s. 0d. court fees and costs. The major part of the work was completed within the time and the remainder after a few weeks. This extra time was agreed to and no further action was taken.

This was the only legal action taken during the year.

## FACTORIES ACT

The number of Factories in the area is as follows:—

Agricultural Engineers ...	3	Builders and Carpenters ...	6
Printers ... ..	1	Blacksmiths ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	14	Jobbing Engineers ... ..	2
Electrical Repairs ... ..	2	Sawmills ... ..	4
Cabinet Makers ... ..	4	Harness Repairer ... ..	1
Beer Bottles ... ..	1	Wheelwright ... ..	1
Motor & Cycle Repair Shops	11	Relief Map Manufacturer ...	1
Grass Drying ... ..	1		

The above list shows that there are no big industries in the district and that the occupations are typical of a rural area. Three notices were received from the Factory Inspector: they were visited and all three were abated by verbal action.

## OUTWORKERS

Two outworkers were notified to the Department during the year and inspections were carried out regularly: both are engaged on the knitting of babywear for London firms.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

During the year, thirteen renewals of slaughtermen's licences were issued and one new licence. The persons licensed were up to the required standard under the above Act.

## INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Regular visits were paid to all types of food premises, not only to condemn food unfit for human consumption, but to promote greater care and cleanliness in the handling of foodstuffs. I found the majority of food handlers only too willing to co-operate. In the case of contamination of crumpets due to careless packing and which had been sent by rail, the crumpets were condemned for human consumption, the firm was written to and the Sanitary Inspectors of that City notified. I am pleased to say that no further trouble has been experienced.

During the year the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrender notes were issued accordingly:

	TINS		LBS.
Sardines ... ..	5	Custard ... ..	28
Salmon ... ..	12	Rusks ... ..	15
Herrings in Tomato Sauce	2	Oats ... ..	16
Pilchards ... ..	20	Semolina ... ..	102
Tomatoes ... ..	1	Stuffing ... ..	8½
Plums ... ..	2	Cake ... ..	2
Peaches ... ..	4	Dried Apricots ... ..	11
Syrup ... ..	2	Strawberries ... ..	6
Baked Beans ... ..	2	Bacon ... ..	18½
Peas ... ..	24	Cheese ... ..	48
Evaporated Milk ... ..	39	Icing Sugar ... ..	29½
Cooked Meats ... ..	25	Fish ... ..	126
	PACKETS		JARS
Weetabix ... ..	1	Salad Dressing ... ..	13
Cornflakes ... ..	1	Gherkins ... ..	1
Jellies ... ..	3		
Ryvita ... ..	4		
400 Crumpets			

All condemned food that was suitable for animal feeding was used for that purpose.

## **SALE, STORAGE AND MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM**

There are 27 premises in the district which are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. The ice cream is bought in bulk from recognised suppliers and in almost every case is also pre-packed. It is then stored in proper refrigerators which automatically control the temperature.

There is one manufacturer of ice cream at Ludgershall who has provided all the apparatus necessary for the up-to-date manufacture and pasteurising of this product. It complies with all the necessary standards.

No difficulties were met with under this heading during the year.

## **MEAT INSPECTION**

As in past years, every animal slaughtered at the Pewsey Slaughterhouse was examined. To accomplish this a tremendous amount of time had to be worked outside the normal working hours and inspections had to be made late into the night, sometimes midnight, sometimes on public holidays and frequently under difficult conditions so that the meat could be allocated the following morning in time. The hanging and cooling room of the slaughterhouse is also used as the allocating room for frozen meat and, as stated in the 1948 Annual Report, the present slaughterhouse was never designed to do the amount of work that is now carried out.

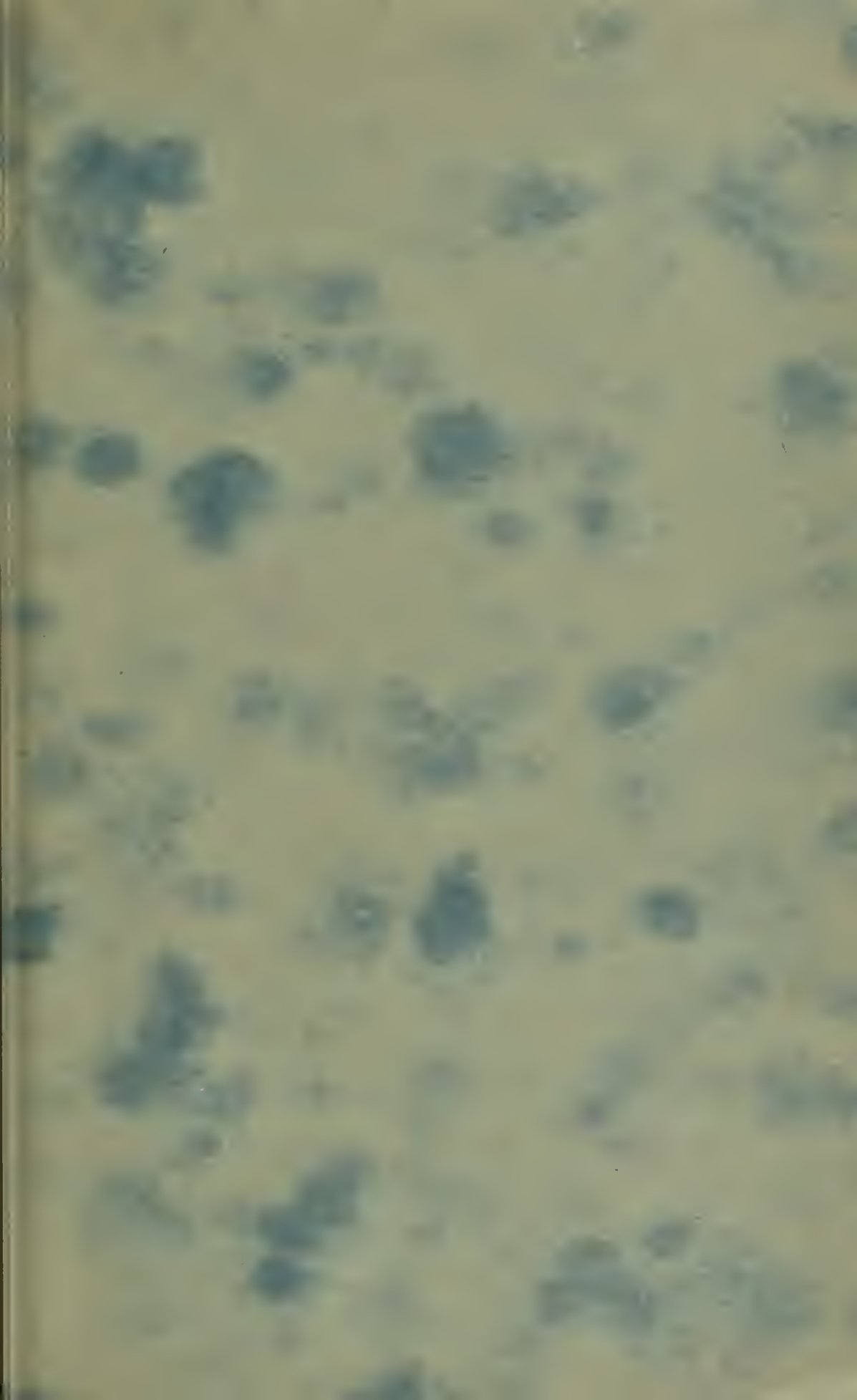
Regular inspections were also paid to the butchers' shops in the area, the greater part of which are well-kept and in a clean condition.

In the numbers of animals killed, the cattle (excluding cows) showed an increase of 219%, sheep 135.7% and pigs 7.7%. There was little difference in the number of calves slaughtered, but the number of cows brought in dropped by 114. The total number killed show an increase of 57.4% over the previous year. This is partially due to the taking over of the slaughtering for Marlborough and Marlborough & Ramsbury R.D.C. in August of 1949.

## SLAUGHTERING STATISTICS

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number Killed ... ..	405	386	1026	2501	28
Number inspected ... ..	405	386	1026	2501	28
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	1	9	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	51	69	8	519	4
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ... ..	12.716	17.876	0.877	21.0	28.0
T.B. ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	9	0	0	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	35	118	0	0	3
Percentage of No. inspected affected with T.B. ...	9.136	32.902	0	0	14.286

There is one Knackers Yard about a mile out of Pewsey on the Burbage Road which is run by a well-established London firm. Periodical visits were made throughout the year to the premises which are well kept. No difficulties have been encountered.







F. JAY & SON  
GEOFFWIN STREET  
SALISBURY